

domestic commerce which the ports upon the waters of the Chesapeake now enjoy; and they cordially unite with their fellow-citizens, in according to the Legislature of Maryland, their thanks for the many and spirited acts of munificence which adorn their annals, in the promotion of this deeply interesting cause. The resolute proceedings of other States are enough to alarm even the phlegmatic into a belief, that without similar determination on the part of those concerned in the commerce of the Chesapeake, and its tributaries, the part of that commerce which still remains, will be rapidly withdrawn to more favorable marts, and the industry of the agricultural part of the community, become proportionably depressed. The great canal of New York is the outward line of demarcation for the circumscription of this trade; and, as the second parallel approaches nearer to a besieged city than the first, confining and cramping its inhabitants to a still more limited range, until a sortie becomes necessary to relieve themselves from its pressure, so the Pennsylvania works, crossing from east to west, have narrowed still further the trade of the Chesapeake. The preservation and increase of this trade is an object to every land-holder in Maryland, whose crop is not entirely consumed upon his farm; because few or none will call in question the political truth, that prices are more steady, and easily obtained, in a large market than a small one; and hence the political obligation to acquire and sustain such a market would appear to be equally manifest. The State of Maryland is so auspiciously situated, that by extending her communications to the north and west, which she is fully adequate to do, she places her prosperity upon the imperishable basis of geographical position. Her lines of trade shoot out in radii from the centre, whilst other States are obliged to move upon the circumference. She occupies a station between the immense Western country upon the one hand, and the Eastern claimants of its commerce upon the other; and although in size and population she now holds only a middle rank amongst her sister States, it is in her power to swell her importance, both in wealth and numbers, by merely seizing upon the advantages which are held out to her grasp.

But your memorialists will forbear from pursuing this topic, because they are profoundly sensible, that your honorable body can better appreciate its magnitude than those persons who have the honor to address you. In the single point of self-defence against a foreign enemy, how much will these works contribute to her security? During the last war, if the road under consideration had existed, twelve hours would have been sufficient to transport the hardy yeomanry of Pennsylvania to the relief of the city of